Public Health Dept,
St. Paul's House,
Park Street,
TAUNTON.

22nd. July, 1943.

MINISTRY OF HEALTH LIBRARY

ANNUAL REPORT

of the Medical Officer of Health

for the Borough of Taunton for the year 1942.

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This is prepared and presented to comply with the requirements of Ministry of Health Circular 2773 and omits details which may enable any reconstruction of population.

SUMMARY OF STATISTICS.

Birth Rate. total.	16.6
" " live	16.2
" " still.	.44
" " illegitimate.	1.1
Death Rate (crude)	11.4
Infant Mortality Rate. total.	38.9
" " " legitimate.	36.5
" " " illegitimate.	57.1
Death Rate (per 1,000 births) from Diarrhoea in infants under 2 years of age.	5.8

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES.

This was similar to those provided in 1940 except that a special weekly clinic for Diphtheria Immunisation was held on Saturday mornings instead of Friday afternoons.

MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE.

Ante-Natal Clinic was held on Monday and Wednesday afternoons at North Street Sunday School. 424 women attended and 19 who had booked a midwife were examined at her request by a doctor.

Obstetric Consultant. This service was provided for 15 mothers at the request of the doctor attending.

Home Helps.. These were provided for 3 mothers. There is a steadily increasing difficulty in finding suitable women to act in this capacity.

Maternity Home. 10 beds. The total number admitted was 238 including 15 specially admitted for Ante-Natal care. Difficulty has been experienced in maintaining a qualified staff of midwives.

Complicated Maternity Cases. 51 mothers were admitted from the Borough to the Taunton & Somerset Hospital for complications of pregnancy.

Infant Welfare Centres. Three sessions each week, two being at North Street on Tuesday and Thursday afternoons and one at Halcon on Wednesday afternoons. Total attendances numbered 3318 with 410 new infants brought for consultation.

Work of the Health Visitors. This service was re-organised in June, the two School Nurses ceased to act as Attendance Officers and the Health Visitor doing this duty only agreed to act as School Nurse, with the result that the three nurses have each approximately one third of the Borough for combined duty as Health Visitor and School Nurse. They paid 4,395 visits to homes to promote the welfare of infants and mothers.

Puerperal Pyrexia. The rate of cases notified per 1,000 births (live and still) was 17 compared with 10 for England and Wales.

Distribution of Fruit Juices and Cod Liver Oil. A part-time helper has been engaged for this purpose and distribution arranged at North Street on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday afternoons and Saturday mornings and at Halcon on Wednesday afternoons.

A War Time Day Nursery was opened in the Victoria Recreation Ground, East Reach on 17th. August. It has accommodation for 12 children under 2 years of age, and 28 from 2 - 5 years. A necessary condition of admission is that the mother must be working.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

Water Supply. A continuous and chlorinated supply was maintained throughout the year. Samples for bacteriological examination in the laboratory of the Somerset County Council was taken at least once each week and the residual chlorine checked.

Milk. Pasteurised Milk was available from two producers in the area and from one in an adjacent area. All the milk supplied under the Milk in Schools Scheme was pasteurised and samples were taken at frequent intervals to check the efficiency of the process.

NOTIFIABLE INFECTIOUS DISEASES. The notification rates per 1,000 and the comparable figures for similar towns were:-

Disease.	Taunton.	Similar Towns.
Cerebro-spinal Fever.	0.09	0.12
Scarlet Fever.	3.16	2.34
Whooping Cough.	0.94	1.58
Diphtheria.	0.25	0.91
Erysipelas.	0.22	0.26
Measles.	1.01	7.39
Pneumonia.	0.79	0.94
Puerperal Pyrexia (per 1,000 live and still births.)	17.04	10.80

DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION.

At the 31st. December it was estimated that 43% of the children under 5 years and 57% of those between 5 and 15 years were immunised of these one was notified as suffering from Diphtheria.

PARATYPHOID FEVER. One death was certified as being due to this cause but investigation did not confirm this.

JOHN ALLEN,

Medical Officer of Health and
School Medical Officer.

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Public Health Department,
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MINISTRY OF HEALTH LIBRARY

14th December, 1942.

ANNUAL REPORT

of the Medical Officer of Health

for the Borough of Taunton for the year 1941.

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This is modified to comply with Ministry of Health Circular 2604 and I have to omit figures which may enable any reconstruction of population.

SUMMARY OF STATISTICS.

Birth Rate live.	14.9
" " still.	0.3
" " illegitimate.	0.9
Death Rate (crude)	12.8
Infant Mortality Rate. Total.	57.5
" " " Legitimate.	51.1
" " " Illegitimate.	161.1
Death Rate (per 1,000 births) from Diarrhoea in infants under 2 years of age.	9.2

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES.

These were similar to those provided in 1940 except that a special clinic for Diphtheria Immunisation was held each Friday afternoon at the North Street Clinic in place of an Infant Welfare clinic.

MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE.

Ante-Natal Clinic, on Monday and Wednesday afternoons at North Street. The numbers attending increased and includes 419 expectant mothers and 30 who attended for post-natal examination, while 16 expectant mothers were examined by medical practitioners at the request of the midwife booked for the confinement.

Obstetric Consultant. This service was provided for 19 mothers at the request of the doctor attending.

Home Helps. Three applications were received from doctors for this service and in two cases a home help was provided.

Maternity Home, 10 beds. The number admitted was 243, including 22 specially admitted for ante-natal care.

Complicated Maternity cases. 69 women were admitted from the Borough to the Taunton and Somerset Hospital for complications of pregnancy.

Infant Welfare Centres, Two. At North Street Centre on Tuesday and Thursday afternoons and Halcon on Wednesday afternoon. Total attendances numbered 3,400 with 528 new infants brought for consultation.

Work of the Health Visitors. At the end of the year there were two Health Visitors, one giving whole time and one half time to this service. They paid a total of 4,314 visits to homes in connection with the welfare of infants and mothers.

Puerperal Pyrexia. The rate of cases notified per 1,000 births (live and still) was 22.2 and the comparable figure for England and Wales being 9.43.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

Water Supply. A continuous and chlorinated supply was maintained throughout the year. Samples for bacteriological examination were taken at least once each week. On four occasions the Bacteriologist reported that the samples were unsatisfactory for a chlorinated water.

Milk. All the milk supplied to the elementary schools under the milk in schools scheme was pasteurised and samples were taken at least once a month to check the efficacy of the process.

NOTIFIABLE INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

The rate per 1,000 and the comparable figure for 148 smaller towns were -

Disease.	Taunton.	For 148 Smaller Towns.
Cerebro Spinal Fever.	0.33	0.20
Scarlet Fever.	2.97	1.51
Whooping Cough.	1.89	4.50
Diphtheria.	0.39	1.19
Measles.	18.56	10.47
Pneumonia.	0.72	1.04

Para typhoid Fever B.

A small outbreak occurred in May and June, 24 cases being notified, mainly among young adults. Although exhaustive enquiries were made and help was given by the Ministry of Health, no definite cause of the outbreak was discovered.

DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION.

At the 30th September, about 17% of the children under 5 years and 38% of those between 5 and 15 years had been immunised.

JOHN ALLEN,

Medical Officer of Health and
School Medical Officer.